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LIBERIA: Vice President William Tolbert has succeeded President Tubman, who died yesterday in a London hospital.



William V. S. Tubman



William R. Tolbert

The initial transfer of power appears to be going relatively smoothly, although some behind-the-scenes maneuvering by ambitious politicians is inevitable. Tolbert has numerous enemies--including some within the local power structure--who may eventually challenge him. There have been several unconfirmed rumors in recent weeks of secret maneuverings within the legislature aimed at either preventing Tolbert from taking office, or making his accession temporary, subject to a special election. Tolbert's rivals may have spread these stories to encourage the idea that strong opposition to the vice president was building.

Tolbert, like the late president, is committed to a pro-Western foreign policy and the continuation of Liberia's historically close ties with the US. [REDACTED]

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EGYPT: Cairo's growing sense of frustration and resignation were evident in a lengthy speech by President Sadat last night.

Sadat began his address to the opening session of the Arab Socialist Union (ASU) with a review of the domestic situation and emphasized the need to create a strong, modern state that would be able to overcome future adversities. He called for "open dialogue and democracy" within the ASU, Egypt's sole legal political organization, and harkened back to the recent purge of that body by vowing that the ASU is "there to serve and not to rule." Future administration changes were promised as Sadat stated that he intended to reform the office of the presidency.

Sadat went on to voice his sadness at the present state of affairs in the Arab world, and launched a bitter attack on King Husayn for his recent actions against the Palestinian guerrillas. Employing the harshest language used in public by any Egyptian in recent years, Sadat accused Husayn of "prevaricating," and said he was no longer able to believe Husayn. Sadat also stated that Husayn must bear the responsibility for the "crimes which have taken place in Jordan."

In discussing the continuing stalemate with Israel, Sadat restated his earlier vow that 1971 was a decisive year, but went further and vowed that he would "not allow 1971 to pass without this battle being decided." Despite his obvious pessimism, however, the Egyptian President left the door open for a peaceful settlement to the problem by stating that he would "never stop looking for any road leading to peace if there is a chance for peace." [REDACTED]

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SUDAN: Scattered fighting continues as Numayri's forces mop up partisans of the leftist coup group.

The fighting centered in south Khartoum yesterday while the armored units that spearheaded Numayri's counter coup searched for rebels. Shelling by tanks in the area of the Presidential Palace resulted in some damage to the British Embassy and the US mission building, where a Marine guard was wounded. Earlier in the day, a funeral procession was held for 19 senior officers who had been machine gunned by the junta as the Numayri forces closed on the palace Thursday afternoon.



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Four special military tribunals were formed by Numayri to try members of the junta. Late yesterday, Major Hashim al-Atta, who led the anti-Numayri putsch on 19 July, was sentenced to be executed by a firing squad along with a member of his junta and the two army commanders who had helped him seize power. Sudanese radio claimed that the sentences had been carried out, but a Numayri aide was quoted in a press report from Cairo to the effect that they had not been as of late yesterday.

In Libya, the state radio announced that the two members of Atta's group whom they had been holding, Babakr al-Nur Uthman and Faruq Hamdallah, had been dispatched to Khartoum, presumably for trial and possible execution. 

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USSR: Politburo member Gennady Voronov's governmental demotion strikes at an independent in the Soviet leadership who has increasingly differed with General Secretary Brezhnev and his allies.

On 22 July Voronov relinquished the premiership of the Russian Federation (the dominant republic in the USSR) to assume the inconsequential post of chairman of the People's Control Committee. The sharp decline in his status follows a series of other reversals. In February Voronov's chief deputy for six years was replaced by an official with career ties to Brezhnev. Brezhnev's ranking of the Politburo at the party congress this spring showed a steep slide for Voronov in the five years since the 1966 congress.

The 60-year-old Voronov does not appear to be closely associated with other members of the leadership, although he appeared to receive some support from another independent, senior secretary Suslov, last fall. Voronov's independent and outspoken views have clearly antagonized other leaders. His rivalry with Brezhnev's unofficial deputy, Kirilenko, goes back to early 1960s. His persistent advocacy of more agricultural reform at a lower cost contradicted the wishes of First Deputy Premier Polyansky and the agricultural program announced by Brezhnev last summer.



Gennady Voronov

Voronov's demotion is the first of a likely series of changes that

seemed foreshadowed by the expansion of the Politburo at the party congress in April. By precedent, Voronov's new post does not entitle him to membership on the Politburo. Moreover, in his new post he replaces a protege of trade union chief Shelepin, another Politburo member in decline and the only incumbent ranked below Voronov at the congress. [REDACTED]

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TURKEY: The banning of the Marxist Turkish Labor Party removes the only leftist party from the political spectrum.

The party was charged with violating the constitution, which requires that political parties operate within the framework of the democratic secular state and forbids them from advocating special rights for minorities. At a recent party convention, declarations reportedly were made against "fascism" and in favor of Kurdish rights. Several party leaders including the chairman are under detention for promoting Kurdish separatism.

The constitutional court's unanimous decision to ban the party will place a heavy damper on the political activities of the left for several years at least. Turkish law forbids members of an outlawed party either to form or join another political party for five years. Some of the early members of the party, including its first president, had already resigned from the party and presumably will not be under the blanket restraint. There will probably be no attempt to form a new socialist party for several months, or at least until the air has cleared.

First organized in early 1961 in the period of political permissiveness that followed the military revolution the year before, the Turkish Labor Party never attained its hoped-for strength and influence. Although its representation was always small, membership in parliament gave the party a sounding board and a source of official information. It also helped to marshal the forces of the political left, which in turn spawned a radical element. This small but extremist group unleashed the campaign of terrorism that ultimately led to military intervention and the downfall of the Demirel government.

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USSR: Five Soviet F-class submarines that entered the Norwegian Sea on 22 July are probably en route to the Mediterranean. These diesel attack units will most likely replace the six Z-class submarines that have been operating in the Mediterranean for nearly four months. A surface force of two destroyers, a frigate, a cruiser, and an oiler recently returned to Baltic waters following a lengthy deployment in the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean force currently consists of 26 surface combatants and submarines, a normal level for this time of year. [REDACTED]

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WEST GERMANY - PAKISTAN: Bonn has advised Islamabad "in no uncertain terms" that it faces the possibility of a cutoff of aid funds already in the pipeline if it does not resume debt service payments. West Germany is believed to be the first country to make such a threat, although other Western nations are holding off new aid commitments. No information is available on any deadline set by Bonn, but it may be October because Pakistan's unilateral six-month moratorium on debt payments to all official creditors expires then. Meanwhile, West Germany has decided to provide an additional \$2.7 million for the East Pakistani refugees in India. [REDACTED]

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CHILE: Foreign-exchange reserves are continuing to fall sharply. The decline from about \$350 million at the end of last year to less than \$200 million in July reflects swelling imports, lower exports, and the adverse reaction of foreign creditors to Chile's nationalistic economic policies. Imports are rising because of agricultural production shortfalls and the increased demand generated by Allende's populist measures, while exports have been hurt by lower copper prices and operating difficulties arising from moves to nationalize the large copper mines. As a result of the squeeze on reserves, Chile has increased restrictions on travel abroad and is exaggerating the damages caused by the recent earthquake in hopes of obtaining more foreign aid. [REDACTED]

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